

THE MAGAZINE OF THE

10th ANNIVERSARY



NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

SPECIAL ISSUE

# SPASTICS NEWS



# NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

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LONDON, W.1.

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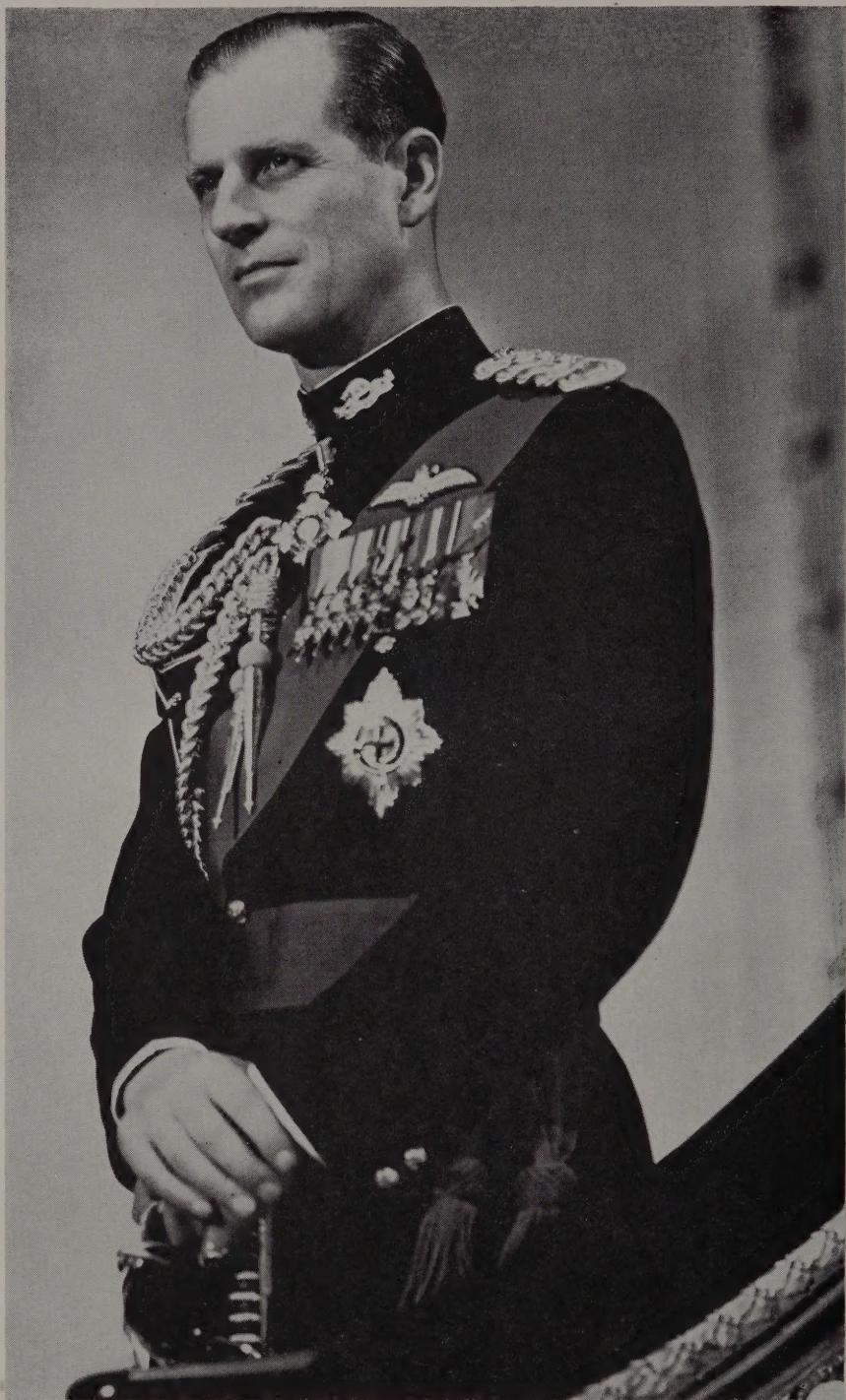
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**H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH**  
President of the National Spastics Society

## FRONT COVER

Our cover shows the Bishop of London at 12 Park Crescent on June 6, 1962, when he unveiled the tablet commemorating the first ten years of the National Spastics Society.

On the left is Mr. J. F. G. Emms, Chairman of the Society, and on the right is Dr. C. P. Stevens, the Director, who is showing the Bishop a model of the Society's new Birmingham project.

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# 10th Anniversary Issue

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## A BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Reader,

**1962** sees the tenth anniversary of the formation of the National Spastics Society and a simple ceremony was held to mark the occasion on the 6th June, when the Lord Bishop of London unveiled a commemorative tablet mounted on the wall of the entrance hall at 12 Park Crescent.

To members of the Society and to the many others who have worked with us during this time the day was an occasion to spend a little while thinking, not so much of a birthday, but of the results we have to show for those ten years; and surely in doing so one can only marvel at the development and achievements of the Society and realise how much the Society owes to those early pioneers and those who joined them.

We are an impatient Society. However pleased we may be with the past our thoughts pass quickly to the future. We have so much to do and though we know it necessarily takes time to bring an idea to completion we grudge this time and look forward to the completion of a project, not only as an objective it itself, but as an opportunity to start on the next one.

Our main course over the next few years is fairly clear in many respects. So far as the National Society is concerned the Paediatric Research Unit has been set up and external research, paid for by the Society, goes on under the control of the Spastics Trust. We should like to set up some form of Educational Research and some discussions have taken place to this end. We have four major new projects at various stages of planning and building and we are expanding Employment, Welfare and Advisory services, including some new direct services to Spastics and their families.

But in many ways the most exciting prospect for the next few years is the setting up of Local Group centres and the expansion of existing ones. So far as can be judged, a very large percentage of Groups will before long have their own Centres and it is quite likely that by then a sum of £500,000 will have been spent in the provision of these centres. This prospect is one of very great responsibility for Groups—each Centre carries with it the good name of the Society—and it is also a prospect of hard work and problems to be solved. I know that Groups will accept this responsibility and work in the future as they have in the past. Advice is available at Park Crescent from people who have already built up a wide experience of the sort of problems which will arise and I hope Groups will not hesitate to share their problems in this way. The successful completion of this programme will be a landmark of achievement in the Society's history.

We have already started to look ahead to decide in broad terms the longer-term direction of the Society's efforts. We must judge how to use our resources to the best advantage of those we exist to serve and provide for—the Spastics. I said at the last General Meeting that a very satisfactory relationship of mutual regard and trust exists between the various components to the Society and, given this, there is no reasonable limit to our progress, either in direction or distance.

**So here's to the next ten years!**

JUNE 1962

J. F. G. EMMS

# THE BISHOP'S VISIT

## 10th Anniversary Tablet Unveiled

THE receipt of an anonymous donation of £5,000—from somewhere in Hampshire—set the seal on a wonderful day of commemoration at 12 Park Crescent on 6th June, 1962, when the National Spastics Society celebrated its tenth anniversary.

A distinguished gathering, including some founder members of the Society, stars of stage and screen and members of the Press, saw the Rt. Hon. and Rt. Rev. Robert Wright Stopford, Lord Bishop of London, unveil a commemorative tablet, presented by friends; they applauded stars Sylvia Syms and Peter Sellers as they cut a candle-lit tenth anniversary birthday cake; and they absorbed the story of the growth of the Society as they walked round a "ten years of progress" exhibition.

The Bishop said there was an immense number of people to whom we should be thankful—those who had the vision to start the Society and the faith to continue its work; doctors, nurses, educationalists and research workers; the incredibly devoted people who look after the children in the residential schools and centres; the Press who publicise the Society's activities, and the hundreds of people all over the country who give their support.

"Ten years is only a short time to encourage and develop so much," he added. "It would be dreadful if we stopped at this stage, when one feels that the break-through is just beginning, when spastics can be placed in employment, with the self-respect they feel in having a place in society. Research is beginning to reveal something of what might be done, and we look forward to the time when there will be a tablet with the words: 'and they all lived happily ever after'."

Welcoming the guests, the Society's Chairman, Mr. J. F. G. Emms, said that the Society started ten years ago when four people—three of whom were parents of spastic children—met to consider the plight of the spastic. In those days the

condition was not very well understood or appreciated and the spastic child had little hope of anything like a normal education or treatment, or even family life. Many spastic children, some of whom were intelligent, and some indeed highly intelligent, were in mental deficiency hospitals, either because they had been wrongly diagnosed or because there was nowhere else for them to go for treatment. This was the position which faced these four people who knew in their hearts that a good deal could be done and felt that it was time someone started to tackle the problem.

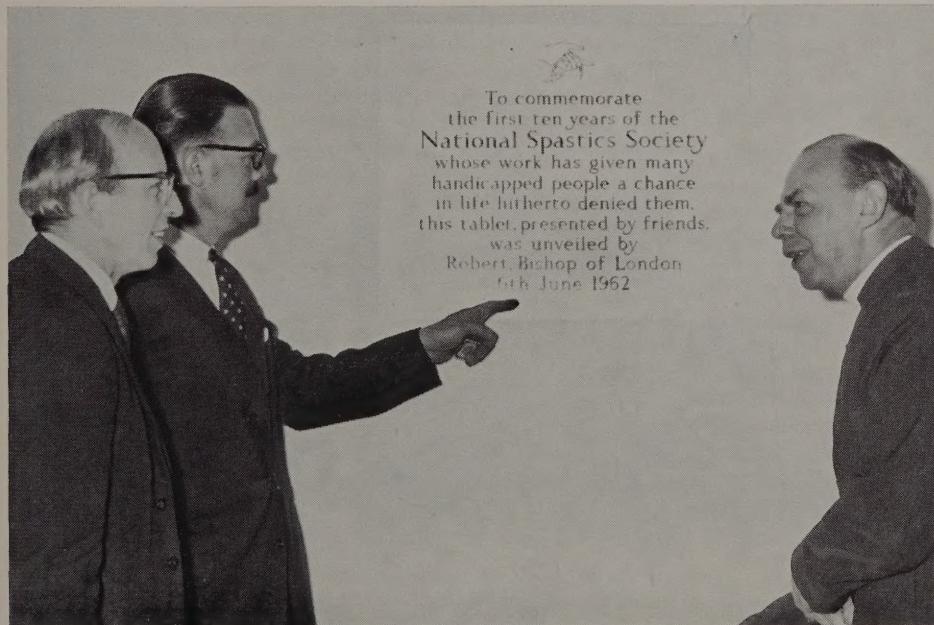
### VISION AND COURAGE

"We have two of those four people with us today," said the Chairman, "Miss Jean Garwood, who has an unbroken record of service with the Executive Committee of the Society, and Mr. Ian Dawson Shepherd, whom I succeeded two years ago, and who was Chairman of the Society for the first eight years of its existence. It is not easy to put into words the Society's appreciation of these pioneers and those who joined them, but I think one must admire most their vision, their single-minded purpose and, above all, their courage—for success did not fall into their laps, they had to fight for it."

They faced two main problems—to obtain public recognition of the problem of spastics and to raise money. Both demanded approaching the widest possible public: the first by its nature, and the second because following the sociological changes of the War and after and particularly the changes of distribution of incomes, approaches to a large number of relatively small donors gave the best and perhaps the only chance of success to a new charity.

They therefore made their appeal on the broadest possible basis and their policy caught the imagination of the Press, who gave them the most wonderful support in telling their story. The British public yet again demonstrated its wonderful Christian spirit of generosity and desire to help others.

With all this help the Society grew and attracted many helpers and was able to plan and to start work on a programme to tackle the problem on all fronts. It opened schools and centres and clinics all over the country. It started a



Mr. Emms and the Bishop with Dr. Stevens (left) after the unveiling of the tablet



*Mrs. Stopford expresses her delight at the beautiful brooch which Merle Davies (also in the picture) has just presented to her. The Bishop is holding the wallet which was presented to him*

cannot introduce the Bishop of London—he is the Bishop of London and that's that. But to the Society he is Bishop Stopford, who when he was Bishop of Peterborough was a patron of our Wilfred Pickles School at Tixover Grange, near Stamford. He may remind us that to commemorate the past, though important, is for us at least less important than facing the challenge of the future. To many of us the formation and growth of the National Spastics Society has an element of the fairy story in it, but while I have been able to commence today by saying 'Once upon a time', there is a long, long haul before one of my successors will be able to come to the part that goes: 'And they all lived happily ever after'."

Dr. C. P. Stevens, the Society's Director, thanked the Bishop for performing the ceremony and said they were glad to be ten years old—glad to have been able in the first five years to raise a million pounds and in the second five years another five million—glad because this had given us the chance to start on an enormous task and to begin to make reasonable provision for its continuation.

"Even those who have little belief in a personal future, must begin to know that what they and their fellows are doing now for the less fortunate among them bodes well for the future, and that the harvest may well be, whatever the depth they see in the word, a harvest of salvation," said the Director.

Medical Research Unit. It started also to teach spastics to learn trades and began to place them in industrial employment. In short, it gave spastics a chance in life.

#### **A great honour and recognition of the initial achievements of the Society came in 1957 when H.R.H. Prince Philip accepted an invitation to become the Society's President.**

"The National Spastics Society is proud of its achievements," said Mr. Emms, "but it has always acknowledged the help which it has received from others. I must mention the Press and the public and to these should be added many others: doctors, educationalists, central and local authorities, stars, and so on.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

"Today the Society has 12 residential centres, all but two of which have been enlarged at least once since they were first built, and some 70 local centres. Over 500 spastics have been placed in open employment and are receiving a regular wage; many more are undertaking satisfying and profitable work in work centres or in their own homes. The medical research programme is supported by expenditure and endowment which will total well over £2 million. The Prince Philip Chair of Paediatric Research has been instituted in the University of London in conjunction with Guy's Hospital, where the Research Unit is established and where it is trying to find the cause of cerebral palsy, the disability from which spastics suffer, and perhaps the causes of other inborn tragedies, too.

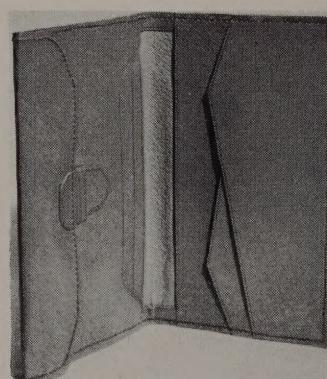
"Nor has the pace slackened—we have at various stages between initial planning and completion four major projects, each of them much larger than anything else we have done previously. We have also many other smaller projects in train: perhaps the most interesting is our effort to provide this year the first family help unit which is designed to give some day-to-day help, not only to the spastics but also to their parents, and in addition to provide some short-term emergency help. There are another 50 or so local centres also at various stages of planning and building. The Society is inaugurating a preliminary programme of initial research in the educational field. Most of the Society's work is pioneer work and many of its units are the first of their kind in the world."

The Chairman expressed gratitude to the Bishop for coming along to unveil the tablet. "As I see it," he said, "you

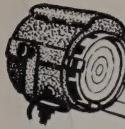
#### **VOLUNTARY WORK**

"If as a nation we seem to ourselves to be losing authority along with the loss of Empire, we are beginning to wake up again to the possibility and responsibility of leadership in this particular field—voluntary work. Just as the National Spastics Society has brought real hope to spastics in this country, the international work of the Society and of others who will follow its lead can give England hope of a new stature among nations—and England shall have a new greatness based on real charity, a new greatness based wholly on service, a greatness which shall owe nothing to conquest and which will serve to lessen fear."

Dr. Stevens then asked Miss Merle Davies, who works in our homeworkers' department, to give the Bishop a small memento of the occasion—a wallet, hand-made in pigskin by a very severely handicapped spastic, Michael Norman of London, and to Mrs. Stopford a small piece of a homeworker's output of jewellery, a brooch made by Allan Tonge, who can only manage work at home.



*The lovely gifts, made by spastics, which were presented to the Bishop of London and to Mrs. Stopford*



# SPOTLIGHT ON

## OUR VISITORS

AFTER the speeches the large presentation birthday cake was a feature of the morning's proceedings in Park Crescent. It was specially made for the occasion by one of our friends, Mr. George Blunden of Parham, near Pulborough in Sussex. Earlier Dr. Stevens had mentioned the fact that the Bishop had acted as judge at the "trial" of the British catering industry. At our ceremony there were no complaints!

The ten-year commemorative exhibition of photographs, diagrams and models dealt with the Society's work in estab-



*Mr. George Blunden's Presentation Cake*

lishing schools and centres all over the country for the education and care of spastics. Pictures were shown for the first time of work in progress at the very important Research Unit recently established at Guy's Hospital by the Society. Hand-crafts of exceptional quality made by spastics attracted favourable comment from many visitors.



*Peter Sellers lends a hand to Sylvia Syms—both members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics—when the time comes to cut the birthday cake. Dr. Stevens, the Society's Director, is on the right*





A smiling trio of guests—Miss Vera Lynn, Ian Dawson Shepherd, and Mrs. W. Cecil Jeapes. Mr. Dawson Shepherd was the first Chairman of the Society, and one of the four founder members



To commemorate  
the first ten years of the  
**National Spastics Society**  
whose work has given many  
handicapped people a chance  
in life hitherto denied them.  
this tablet, presented by friends,  
was unveiled by  
Robert. Bishop of London  
6th June 1962



The handsome tablet, unveiled by the Bishop of London at the Society's premises in Park Crescent, was presented by friends of the N.S.S.

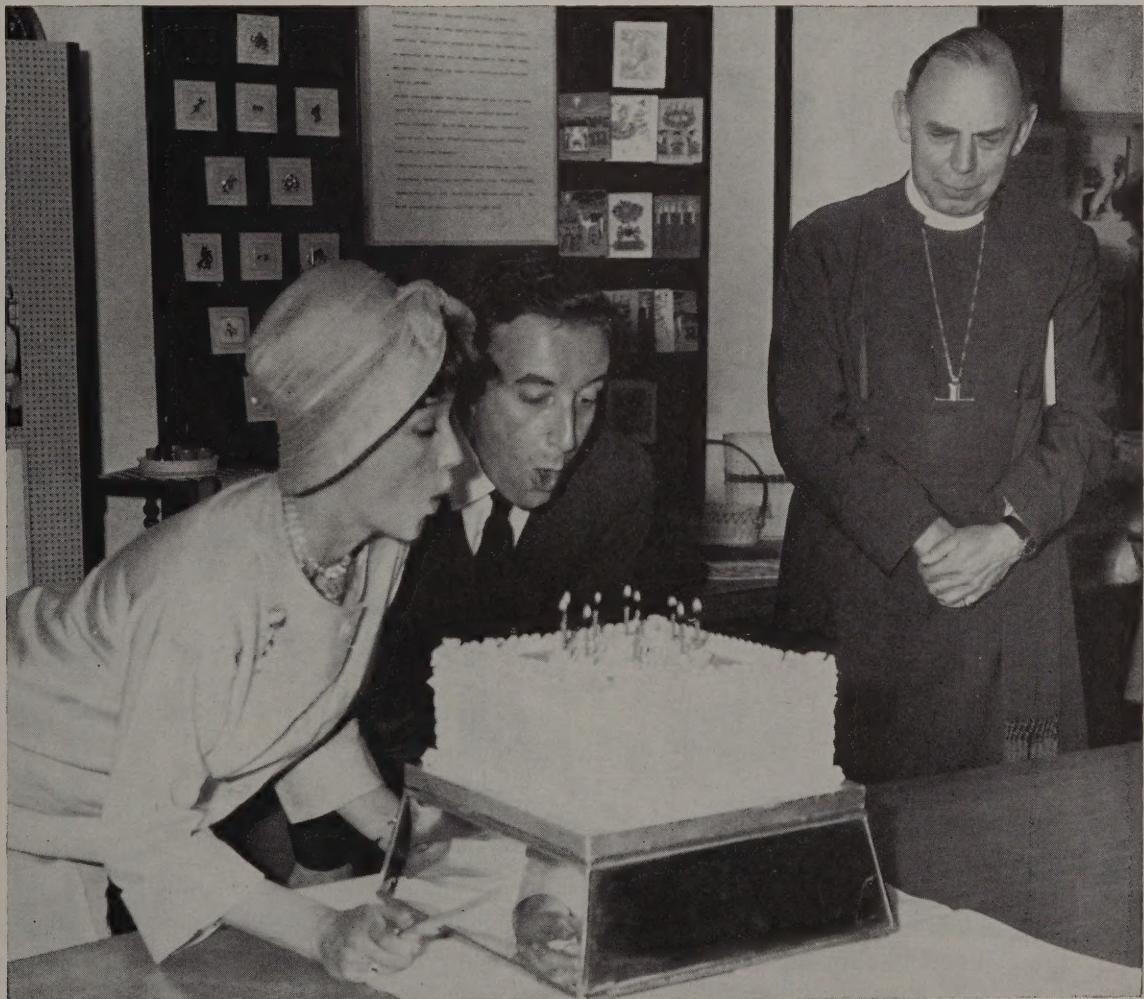
*The photographers were there in force*



Mrs. Stevens, wife of the Director, shares a joke with Peter Sellers

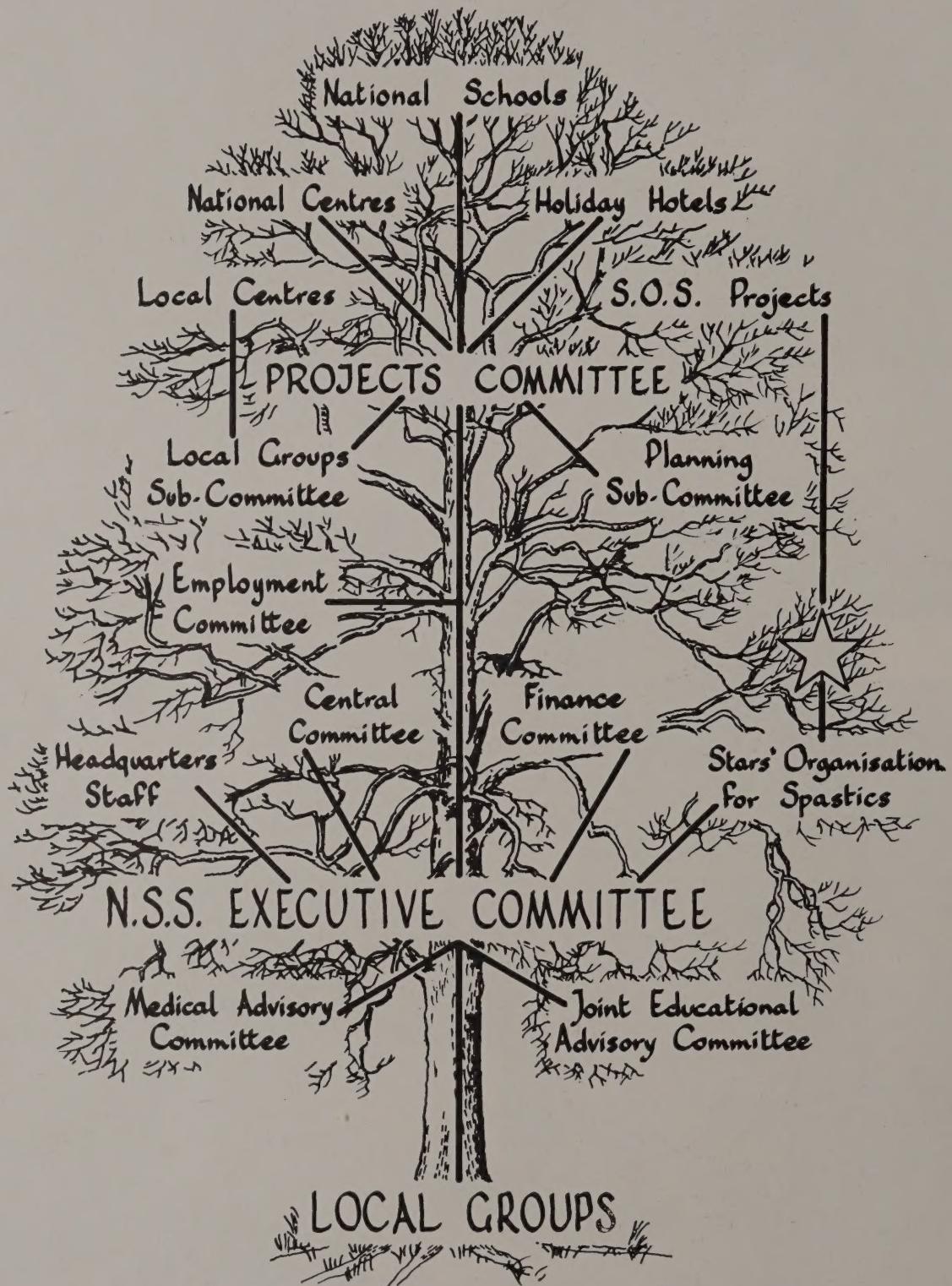


Alderman F. Roberts, a member of the Executive Committee and his wife are seen talking to Miss M. Brownjohn (centre) a member of the Employment Department



The first decade of progress commemorated. Sylvia Syms and Peter Sellers extinguish the ten candles under the eyes of the Bishop

# THE NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY'S FAMILY TREE



*This diagram shows the structure that has grown in the past ten years from the initiative of local groups coming together all over the country to help spastics*

# A CRUSADE IS LAUNCHED TEN PROUD YEARS

1952-1962

JUST over ten years ago four people met in a house in Croydon. Three, Ian Dawson Shepherd, Eric Hodgson and Alex Moira were parents of spastic children. The fourth, Jean Garwood, was a friend trained to assess such problems as they had and able and willing to help to find nationally applicable solutions.

Because of that meeting thousands of children and adult spastics are now being given care and treatment in centres,

schools, clinics and hostels all over the country; hundreds of spastics have been trained to earn their living in industry; a team of medical experts are working in a five-floor research unit at Guy's Hospital to find why children are born spastic. The nation has been alerted to a neglected age-old problem, and the movement to help spastics is strongly entrenched in every major town in the country.



*Alex Moira, Ian Dawson Shepherd (centre), Jean Garwood and Eric Hodgson (right), at the house in Croydon where their first meeting was held in 1952—and the Society was born*

## Ten Years Ago

Today the word "spastic" has passed into the national vocabulary. Only ten years ago there were few except the parents of spastic children who knew the word or what it meant. There were practically no schools for spastics. Few doctors could diagnose cerebral palsy (the condition from which spastics suffer) and there were few therapists available to give suitable treatment. Many children, bright and intelligent despite their unhappy afflictions, were placed in mental homes simply because there were no other places where they could be looked after.

But a feeling was growing among the parents that the twentieth century with all its resources should offer more than this. In various parts of the country they were getting together in groups and talking over their problems and experiences. But they were not organised. They had no funds.

And so the eventful meeting took place in Croydon to found a Society to bring the groups together to unite their efforts and raise money so that spastics could be understood and helped. The four contributed a capital of £5 when they met that evening but they soon turned it into £600. And at a meeting in London in mid-1952 thirteen groups were represented—with three apologies for absence—a total of sixteen local societies at the beginning, compared with the present figure of 132 in England and Wales alone. And so the foundations of the National Spastics Society were laid.

## Parents on the March

The Society quickly became organised. It was undertaking a crusade and from the outset was animated with crusading zeal. It lost no opportunity of telling its story through the Press, screen, television and radio.

Early in its life the Society was given positive proof of the great-heartedness of the British public. At its first annual general meeting in 1953, the Chairman, Ian Dawson Shepherd, announced the raising of £20,000 in 18 months. "The parents" he said, "are on the march". Later that year the Society launched its first Christmas seals appeal. By then there were 62 groups contributing to central funds and helping in various ways.

## First Plans are Implemented

In 1952, the Percy Hedley, Bristol and Nottingham centres among others were already operating. As the money began to come in the Society started to open a network of local centres all over the country. The first local centre to be opened under its auspices was at Stockport in 1953. 1954 saw the allocation of £45,000 for a medical research scheme and the appointment of a research director to head the first large-scale intensive research into cerebral palsy. The next year the Society opened the first of its national centres at Prested Hall in Essex to accommodate adult spastics, then Craig-y-Parc School in Wales for children, to be followed by the Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge—the first centre in the country providing Secondary Grammar School education for heavily handicapped spastics. By 1958 the number of local centres had risen to 30 and since then growth has been very rapid indeed.

The Society widened its base as the public saw the work in progress; in addition to parents of spastic children, many other men and women with wide professional and business experience came forward enthusiastically to serve on its committees and to assist in raising funds.

The N.S.S. was greatly honoured in 1957 when H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, accepted an invitation to become its President.

## Consolidation

And so the story goes on, a miraculous record of achievement by this spontaneous popular movement. The first modest £45,000 research scheme has now become a medical research unit at Guy's Hospital with an endowment from the Society of over £2 million. The Prince Philip Chair of Paediatric Research, the first of its kind in the world, has now been established at London University in conjunction with Guy's Hospital: and Dr. Polani, the Society's research director, was the first man appointed to fill it.

The Society raised £1 million in its first five years and £5 million in its second five years. Seventy-two of its affiliated local groups are now running their own centres and providing regular treatment, care, or work for spastics. At least another twelve local centres will be set up within the next two years. The Society itself also has twelve national residential centres and there are current plans for fresh national projects such as a Birmingham sheltered workshop which will provide work places and home for 120 spastics; and a new school at Mel-dreth Manor, Cambridgeshire, which will have places for 120 severely handicapped children—a new kind of "school for the unscholarly". Like most of the Society's centres, these will be breaking quite new ground and such pioneer ventures are expensive. The cost of them will be something approaching a million pounds—but the work is vital. In addition, the Society's existing centres are under pressure to expand to meet the growing demand for treatment and training. Many major extensions and building improvements are planned.

The Society is also hoping to inaugurate an extensive programme of educational research. Education, treatment, employment, social adjustment and indeed the whole field of a handicapped person's life are its concern.

## After 10 Years

This is only a brief outline of the story of the National Spastics Society. There are many things it cannot cover—crises, setbacks, failures. But these were overcome by courage, determination, belief in the cause and sheer hard work.

The road has not been an easy one, and good as the progress has been, there is still a long way to go.

## Dr. Stevens's Message

Dr. C. P. Stevens, Director of the Society, himself a father of nine children, says:

"In this country there is still a spastic child born every eight hours and our problem is a continuing one. A great deal has been achieved in the ten years but it is really only a beginning. Our twin task is to look after spastics and to prevent children being born with this handicap."

"Many, many people have made the Society what it is, but we could have achieved nothing tangible without the support of the public. They have provided the bricks and mortar for our buildings and the wherewithal for our research programme.

"Loving care costs money and we have been grudged neither the love nor the money. That is the combination for success."

**On the following pages we show something of what we have achieved  
in 10 years work for spastics and of our hopes for the future**

# APPEALING FOR FUNDS

THE great generosity of the British public has been well illustrated in the growth of our Society. Over the past ten years they have made magnificent contributions towards the care of spastics. To-day their response continues and grows in strength.

When the Society was formed in 1952 an intensive appeals campaign swung into action. Newspapers featured stories about spastics in their columns: the public heard about them on radio and saw them on film: house to house collections were made: thousands of leaflets were produced: collecting boxes were seen everywhere and many other forms of fund-raising were tried with success. "Dolls", three-quarter life size models of a little spastic girl, took up positions outside shops and stores—and on a good site these dolls have been known to take the best part of £50 in a week. Parents' Groups throughout the country held raffles, jumble sales, dances. Children, old-age pensioners and others sent in gifts, ranging from a few shillings to thousands of pounds.

"Beacons", miniature Belisha beacons round which pennies were stacked, began to be familiar sights in licensed houses, and to-day throughout the country there are about 12,000 beacons, which in four years have collected over £80,000.

Christmas Cards and Seals play an important role in appeals work. The Society has now set up its own marketing organisation for Christmas cards and a very wide selection is offered. One complete section of these cards, running to six designs, are printed in colour by spastics in centres and in their own homes.



Well-wishers have subscribed a record sum for spastics on an S.O.S. beacon, and a star is visiting their pub to celebrate—and collect the cash

The Seals appeal began at the period of the Coronation in 1953 as an experiment. So successful was this scheme—over £12,000 was raised—that the Society decided to launch a nation-wide appeal at Christmas time with seals depicting Christmas scenes. The two first such appeals produced a total of over £250,000 and they now add year by year to the Society's income.

Great help to the Society on appeals and publicity have come from stars of stage and screen, members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics. Since 1955 they have established three sensationaly successful annual events. These are the Stars' Ball, held every December at Grosvenor House in London: the Record Star Show held at the Wembley Pool in March: and a Christmas television production. The stars are also extremely helpful to the N.S.S. in making every year many "personal appearances" at fund-raising events—and it should here be added that no member of the S.O.S. ever charges or expects any fee or award for their assistance.

In 1956 the Society's Executive Committee accepted a proposal under which the Society would benefit through the working of a football pool organisation whose members belong to the Friends of Spastics League. There are now millions of members of this league who each week make regular contributions to the Society's funds, contributions which have enabled the Society to make tremendous steps forward in their programme of assistance to spastics.

Legacies are beginning to form an important part of the Society's income and Covenants made by sympathetic members of the public help greatly when planning ahead for future needs.

**For those who would like to contribute to the Society's work in the future some notes may be found in the last pages of this issue which may be helpful.**



These are only a few of the many stars—members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics—who have given their time freely and willingly to help spastics

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent

(Recognised by the Ministry of Education)



Established in 1955, this is a bilateral school with grammar and secondary modern streams, aptitude and ability determining the placing of each pupil, both initially and at subsequent annual reviews. Small forms ensure the individual attention necessitated by the wide variety of handicap and the peculiar learning difficulties. This flexibility in organisation and methods accounts for the marked progress and success of its pupils.

The curriculum of the grammar forms leads to the General Certificate of Education at Ordinary and Advanced levels and this year the school achieved its first university entrance, when a boy gained admission to Edinburgh University.

Some students follow a commercial course and take the examinations of the Royal Society of Arts in shorthand, typing, book-keeping and accounts. The modern course caters for the less academically minded and has a more practical bias, but all students have classes in housecraft, wood and metalwork, art and various crafts, and all share in the activities of the school societies, clubs, games and sports.

Informing every activity in education and treatment is the emphasis on independence and normality, the aim of the Society being to fit its pupils to live as full a life as possible within the never final limits of their disabilities.



Preparing for "O" level

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

Craig-y-Parc School, Pentyrch, Cardiff

(Recognised by the Ministry of Education)



This residential school provides education and training for 50 children between the ages of 5 and 16. Many extra facilities have been added, including a modern classroom block, annexes for domestic science and woodwork, and fully equipped adventure playgrounds. The staff includes teachers qualified in remedial methods, and trained in the teaching of partially deaf or maladjusted children.

The staffing ratio is liberal enough to enable teachers, therapists, and houseparents to give adequate consideration to the full needs of each child and to join in regular case conferences to debate the approach most suited to each child.

Able pupils are passed from Craig-y-Parc to the Thomas Delarue Secondary School for Spastics.



*This lovely house has one of the finest views over the Vale of Glamorgan*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

## Wilfred Pickles School, Stamford, Lincolnshire

(Recognised by the Ministry of Education)



The excellent atmosphere prevailing in this school and the team work of all sections of the staff, are clearly reflected in the general standard, bearing and composure of the pupils.

The school provides primary education for spastics between 5 and 16 years and 62 residential and 8 day pupils are given every opportunity to develop their mental and physical potential.

The progress made by the pupils in the Unit for the Partially Deaf which was the first of its kind in the country, has already shown that tremendous success can be achieved if the necessary conditions are created and professional skill provided.

The future developments planned for the school will add to the special facilities.



*Working for their Brownies badges forms part of the pupils' leisure time activities*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

## Irton Hall School, Cumberland



*In the Adventure Playground*

This is a school for the education of spastics reputed to be below average intelligence. The qualified staff of teachers combine with therapists and group-parents in the education and management of the 41 children in residence, whose multiple handicaps are less disabling in an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding.

A new classroom and therapy wing and an Adventure Playground have just been completed and have added greatly to the amenities of the children.

Residential staff accommodation has also been expanded recently.

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

## Hawksworth Hall, nr. Bradford, Yorkshire

This is a residential diagnostic and assessment centre for spastic children between 5 and 13 years, whose educability cannot easily be determined. Long experience has taught the Society that the intelligence level of children who are mentally and physically handicapped can sometimes only be ascertained after a long period of observation—varying from 3 to 12 months—made in surroundings conducive to producing the fullest response of which a child is capable.

Every child's progress is reviewed regularly by the Society's consultant panel. Facilities are also provided for the diagnosis of spastic children suffering from hearing loss, and for auditory training. Present accommodation is for 24 children between the ages of five and eleven.

Staffing at Hawksworth Hall is generous to ensure that personal attention can be given to each child.



*Special equipment is in use to help partially deaf children*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

Daresbury Hall, nr. Warrington, Lancashire



Daresbury Hall is a centre for adults providing accommodation for 34 heavily handicapped young men aged from 16 to 35 years. Work is now progressing on an extension which will provide accommodation for 24 women residents. The therapy unit has departments for handicraft instruction, occupational therapy, speech therapy and physiotherapy, and there is a kitchen for domestic science. All these facilities are housed in a new building specially designed for the purpose and erected in the spacious grounds by the Society. Social events in the Hall, organised by friends and neighbours, are a special feature at Daresbury.

*Work and play are well catered for*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

## Coombe Farm, Croydon, Surrey



A new assembly hall, therapy unit and swimming pool have recently added to the facilities provided at this residential centre for 45 heavily handicapped young men and girls, aged 16 to 25.

Regular treatment is given by physiotherapists and speech therapists. Part of the day is spent in a well-equipped workshop under the supervision and encouragement of experienced instructors. Here, in addition to the usual crafts, there is a cooking unit and print shop. There is also a light assembly section where sub-contract work is carried out by the residents. Four "further education" classes are conducted each week, and there are musical instruction and a weekly art class.



*Coombe Farm was one of the Society's earliest centres*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

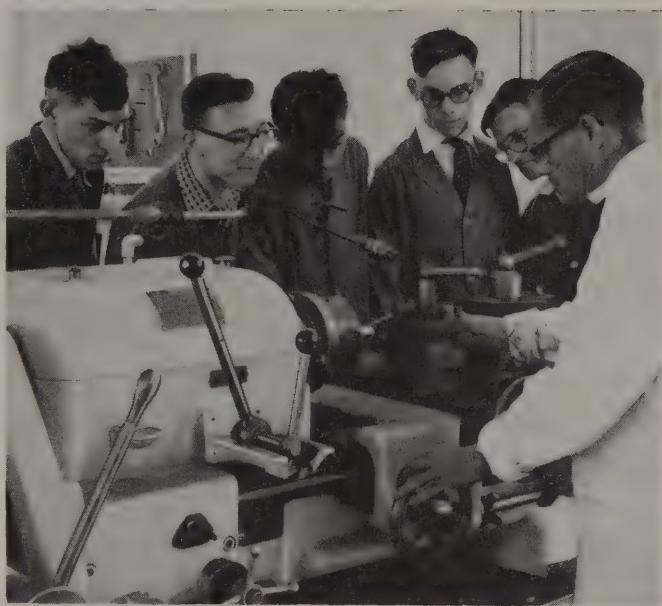
Sherrards, Old Welwyn, Hertfordshire

(Recognised by the Ministry of Labour)

Through this centre, the first residential training establishment in the world exclusively concerned with the industrial training of spastics, adolescents pass into regular work and are giving reliable and conscientious service. Training is provided in a number of vocations including light engineering and woodworking. A commercial course will be available shortly and a domestic course is also to be added to the training programme.

The present residential capacity of 31 trainees will be increased to 66 when the new extensions are completed. The workshop extensions have already been completed and regular contract work is undertaken for outside firms.

The young men and women "go out to work" each day to the purpose-built training workshops situated in the spacious grounds and learn the routine of modern factory life.



*Major extensions to these buildings will be completed in a few months*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

Prested Hall, Kelvedon, Essex



This, the Society's first residential centre, provides a warm home life and true companionship for 31 spastics aged from 25 to 40 years. They are encouraged to develop independence to a high degree and have found the emotional security so important to their happiness. The residents now go out independently by bus to church, to the cinema, theatre and shops. There is keen interest in evening classes, especially in the newly-formed art class. They have been welcomed into the nearby community, and strong social links have been established with churches and musical, art, and dramatic bodies. Some of them live in "The Grange"—a house in the village of Kelvedon—and are truly part of the village community.



*A house father with a group of residents*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

## The Grange, Kelvedon, Essex



Situated in the heart of the village of Kelvedon, this is a new development in the care of heavily handicapped older spastics. Here 13 men and women have become part of the village life, accepted by the community and gratefully welcoming the friendly interest of their neighbours. A variety of craft work is carried on by the residents in a purpose-built workshop and day room which has been equipped and paid for largely by the work of local groups and neighbours. Residents are encouraged to work as a team.

## Ingfield Manor, Billingshurst, Sussex

Ingfield Manor was opened in the autumn of 1961 for 24 spastic children, but extensions are already in hand which will increase capacity to 50 boarders between the ages of five and sixteen.

The main aim of the school is to teach and care for children who have to face life with the twin burdens of physical and mental handicap. There will be a programme of special education running parallel with treatment that will develop the whole person and train the pupils to a standard where they can enter one of the Society's further education centres.

### Historic

Standing in 13 acres of terraced gardens, fields and woodland, Ingfield Manor is an early 18th century-style building

with fine views to the north-west over the weald of Kent. The pyramid-roofed extension will be sited so that the new classrooms all enjoy this view.

The conversion has been designed with the special needs of spastic children in mind. Facilities will include a physiotherapy room, sick bay, laundry and a hydro-therapy swimming pool. The pool is to be presented by the Jersey Spastics Group. Provision is made for the teaching of deaf children in sound-insulated classrooms. Classes will not be larger than 6-8 children.

Staff will be accommodated in houses in the grounds or in bed-sitting rooms in the main building, with their own dining and recreation rooms. This will be the latest of the National Spastics Society's pioneer units.



*Ingfield Manor, which opened in 1961 as a new special school*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

## Colwall Court, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex

Established by the Stars Organisation for Spastics, this holiday hotel, which accommodates 23, continues to be a great blessing to parents. Very often for the first time they can enjoy a holiday on their own with the comforting assurance that their spastic child is being well cared for by an experienced staff, including a State Registered Nurse.

The children are taken on many local excursions and expeditions.

*Celia Walker (RIGHT) shows how much a holiday by the sea can mean*



*The house is only a minute's walk from the sea*

# NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

## Arundel Hotel

### The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex

Now in its sixth year of existence, this holiday hotel for spastics and accompanying relatives or friends is proving to be as popular as ever. Situated on a busy sea front as it is, the hotel is ideal for handicapped people, as even if they cannot get very far, there is always something of interest to see. The hotel, which accommodates 19, is open all the year round and now has many winter visitors.



# PLANS FOR NEW PROJECTS

The National Spastics Society is preparing to spend over three million pounds by the end of 1966 on expanding its existing national schools and centres and in setting up completely new projects such as the new Birmingham Hostel (illustrated below).



Birmingham Hostel  
View from Meadow  
May 1962

*One of the designs for the new Birmingham Hostel*

## Birmingham Sheltered Workshop and Hostel

A £500,000 building programme, to include a three-storey Hostel of revolutionary design—one of the most modern in Europe—is to be carried out in Birmingham by the Society.

The Hostel will be designed on a cellular construction plan with living rooms of polygon shape. It will accommodate 100 spastic men and women, who will be employed in a nearby Sheltered Workshop—a modern commercial factory engaged in light industrial production—which the Society will also build.

The Hostel, which will provide single or double bed-sitting rooms and a kitchen on each floor so that the residents can make light refreshments when entertaining friends, will also have a dining room, games room with bar, television room and a writing and quiet room. Small laundries and drying rooms will also be provided for those who want to do their own light laundry.

The whole aim of the building is to provide a real home as opposed to an "institution" for the spastic residents. The Hostel will be fully staffed.

The Sheltered Workshop, covering 36,000 square feet and equipped with the most modern electrical and mechanical tools and aids, will be erected some 450 yards away from the

Hostel. There will be offices, a canteen, a rest room, and first-aid medical facilities.

The work to be undertaken will be on sub-contracts from local and other firms. The spastic personnel—there will be 120 employees, 20 of whom live in or near Birmingham—will also develop their own lines for direct sales.

The Workshop will be run on modern commercial and industrial lines, with a keen eye on over-all efficiency and costs. The spastic employees will be subject to normal factory discipline and will be paid on rates to be agreed by the trade unions, based on national scales. The employees can elect their own shop stewards to watch their interests from the trade union side.

The whole organisation is intended to reproduce, as far as possible, a modern commercial factory engaged on light industrial production. It is hoped that after an initial 18 months or so "running-in" the Workshop will be financially self-supporting.

Some of the spastics in the Workshop may become fit enough to enter commercial life and they will find no difficulty in operating in a modern industrial organisation after training and working under the conditions which will be provided at the Birmingham centre.

## Meldreth Residential Junior Training Centre

The Society plans a completely new development, a Residential Junior Training Centre, at Meldreth Manor, near Melbourn, Cambridgeshire. This has become known as a "School for the Unscholarly". Provision will be made for 120 spastic children who cannot benefit from the educational

facilities which are already available at the Society's schools.

Experience has shown that even the most handicapped child can be helped to some independence and enjoyment of life by social training, therapy and basic educational methods.



## Harlow Work Centre and Hostel

The Society is to build a new work centre at Harlow for about 100 spastics together with a hostel for 75 residents; the remaining 25 employees will, it is expected, come from local families. The work centre will provide light industrial work for spastics who are too severely disabled to work in open industry or at the Sheltered Workshop at Birmingham.

The Harlow Development Corporation have agreed to lease to the Society two attractive sites for the hostel and work centre in Harlow New Town. The hostel site is pleasantly watered and wooded, whilst that of the work centre is about three-quarters of a mile away on a modern factory estate.

The centre will undertake light repetitive engineering work, by sub-contract, using modern semi-automatic machinery which will be modified for severely disabled employees. In

addition, goods will be manufactured for direct sale to ensure an outlet for productive capacity should sub-contracts become irregular. The workshop will be light and spacious, giving ideal working conditions, and facilities such as first aid and rest rooms. There will also be provision for physio-therapy and similar treatments.

The hostel will be planned to provide a home for the spastic residents and anything savouring of an "institutional" atmosphere will be avoided. The majority of the staff will live in pleasant self-contained flatlets or houses near the hostel.

A project of this type, costing about £235,000, takes time to materialise. Architectural planning will start this year, and the buildings erected and equipped in 1963/64. It is hoped that this exciting venture will start to operate in 1964.



*The design for the new school at Tonbridge*

## N.S.S. School for Spastics, Tonbridge

The Thomas Delarue School is shown on page 14 among the other national centres. To the west of the present buildings, in the same English parkland, there is rapidly rising a new spacious purpose-built group of modern buildings, a sketch of which is shown here. Set in its own extensive playing fields, the new buildings seek to incorporate the experience of the last seven years in providing an atmosphere and conditions in which between 80 and 100 heavily handicapped boys and girls will find encouragement to persevere in their search for independence and a first class education.

A fine assembly hall, laboratories for general science, wood- and metal-work rooms, a therapy block and swimming pool, together with classrooms and private study rooms form the main part of the new buildings. Two separate hostel blocks, each housing 40 boys and girls and their houseparents, together with houses and a hostel for the professional staff, complete the domestic provision of a school which the pupils will be proud to attend.

The Society is planning to use the vacated buildings to house a Further Education Centre.

## National and Local Improvements

On a national scale other substantial improvements are being made over the next few years at the Society's schools and centres to provide extra facilities for the spastic children and residents, and to expand accommodation.

On a local scale at least 12 more local centres will be added in the next two years to the 72 already established throughout England and Wales.

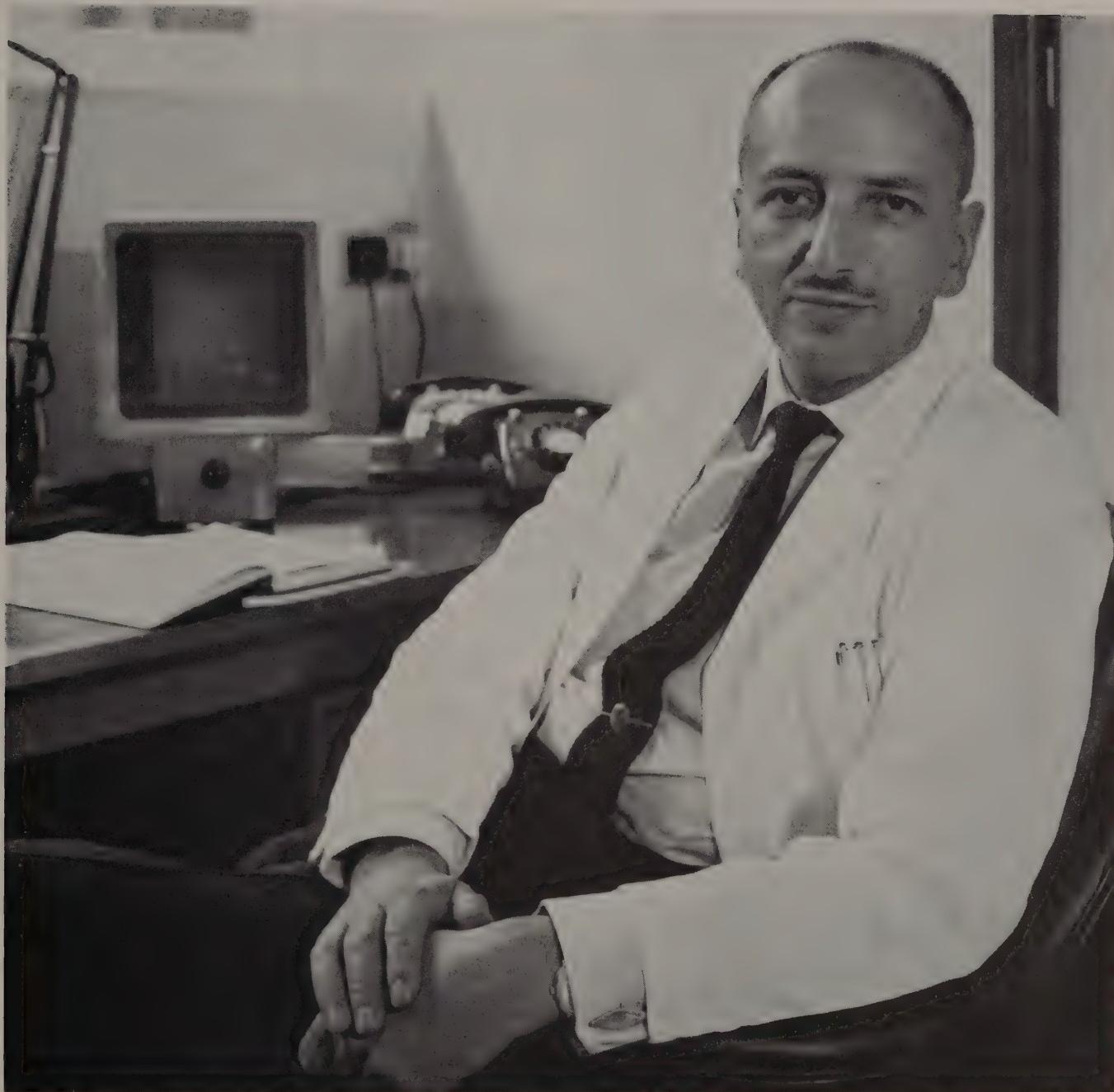
In addition the Society is to launch a Family Help Service Scheme for parents of severely backward and physically dependent spastic children and young adults. Nottingham has been chosen as the centre for this pilot scheme, which will

combine part-time residential care at the centre for young spastics, home relief and parent counselling. A family well able and willing to care for a spastic child at home may need help at times of sickness or distress—may quite simply from time to time need a break.

The Society has also opened a Foster Home for eight young spastic men and women at Sunningdale House, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex. It is hoped that this house—a real home to which residents return each day from work in outside industry—will be the first of many throughout the country.

# RESEARCH—THE WAY AHEAD

by Professor Paul E. Polani



PROFESSOR PAUL E. POLANI, *Director of the Research Unit*

THE conversion of Down's Warehouse, belonging to Guy's Hospital, into Research Laboratories for the Pædiatric Research Unit, is nearly completed and a number of research workers, previously guests in the laboratories of other departments of the Hospital and Medical School, are now assembled under one roof. The warehouse has been renamed "Cameron House", in honour of Hector Cameron, the first Children's Physician at Guy's Hospital, and the laboratories have been

named "National Spastics Society Research Laboratories" to acknowledge the benefactors who have made possible the establishment of the Unit.

The work of the Unit is mainly concerned with the biological background of these disorders and diseases, among which those affecting the nervous system play a predominant part in this country at the present time. An understanding of this background is generally essential to arrive at the knowledge

of the causes of these disorders and the mechanisms whereby these causes operate, and this is by way of paving the road to prevention or minimisation of these disorders.

Medical investigation is progressing rapidly in a number of directions, of which some of the more fruitful are being developed in the Unit and Research Laboratories. To mention some of them: There is the field of biochemistry and enzyme chemistry, the science that studies the chemical processes in normal and diseased organisms, the factors which control them, and the ways in which these derangements arise and manifest themselves. Closely linked with this is the study of cytology, that is the study of the cells and their behaviour in normal and abnormal conditions. Cytogenetics is an aspect of this study concerned with the detection of abnormal cell functioning due to the alteration of the genetic control of the cells, the governor of cell function. The field of modern immunology is also a rapidly advancing area of study and application to a variety of diseases in which the disturbances are caused by abnormal interactions between the cells, which make up the individual or its tissues, and other cells or tissue fluids.

The study of diseases and disorders in a population is part

of the epidemiological approach. This often results in establishing correlations between diseases and certain factors which are thought to be of importance to the origin of the disorders themselves. In this way one may obtain indications about possible causes, such as for instance the correlation between the gestation age of the foetus at its birth and the appearance of certain types of cerebral palsy. Once the epidemiologist has established these correlations, the biologist (biochemist, cytologist, immunologist), or the experimentalist takes over to probe into the nature of the correlation and to seek to establish the causes and mechanisms whereby these causes interfere with normal vital processes.

Most of the leads to the investigation by biological methods come from the observations of clinicians. In this way a system of questioning by the clinicians, and the probing and experimenting by the biologists, is gradually developed, which leads to a progressive clarification of obscure disease processes.

These are briefly the activities of the people working in the Unit, and the recently completed Research Laboratories will give them the badly needed space and tools with which to operate.

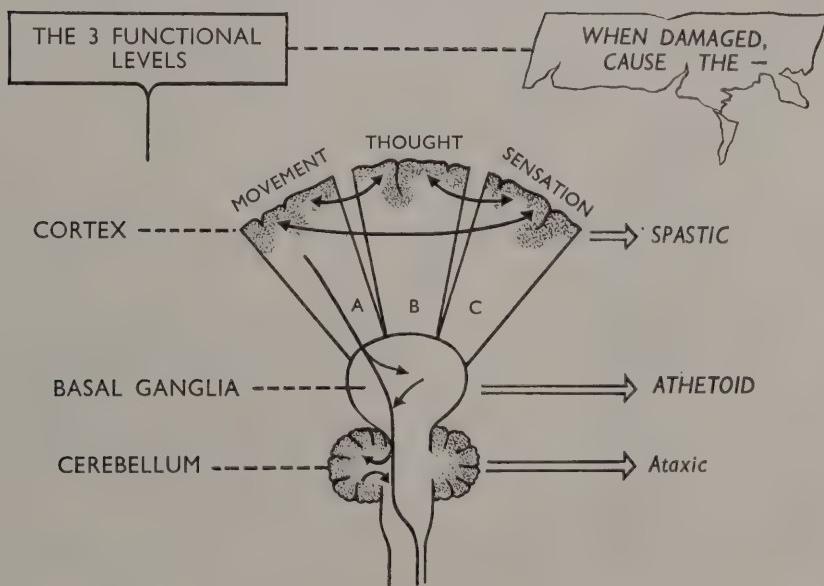
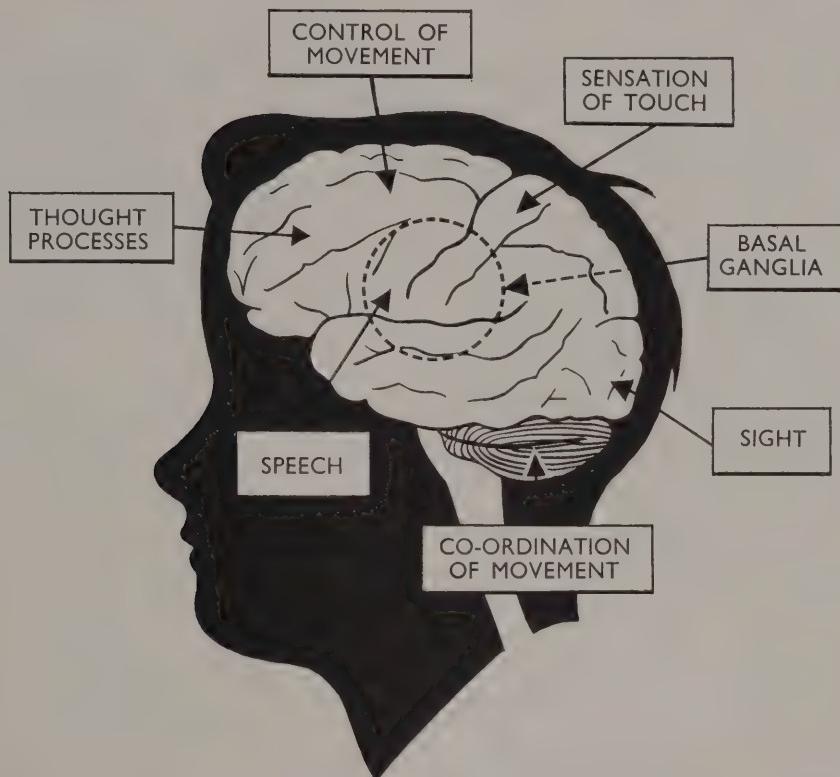
PAUL E. POLANI.



SUSAN BRIGGS IN THE ASEPTIC ROOM of the Tissue Culture Laboratory dealing with peripheral blood cultures

# THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

## HOW THE N.S.S. IS LEADING THE WAY



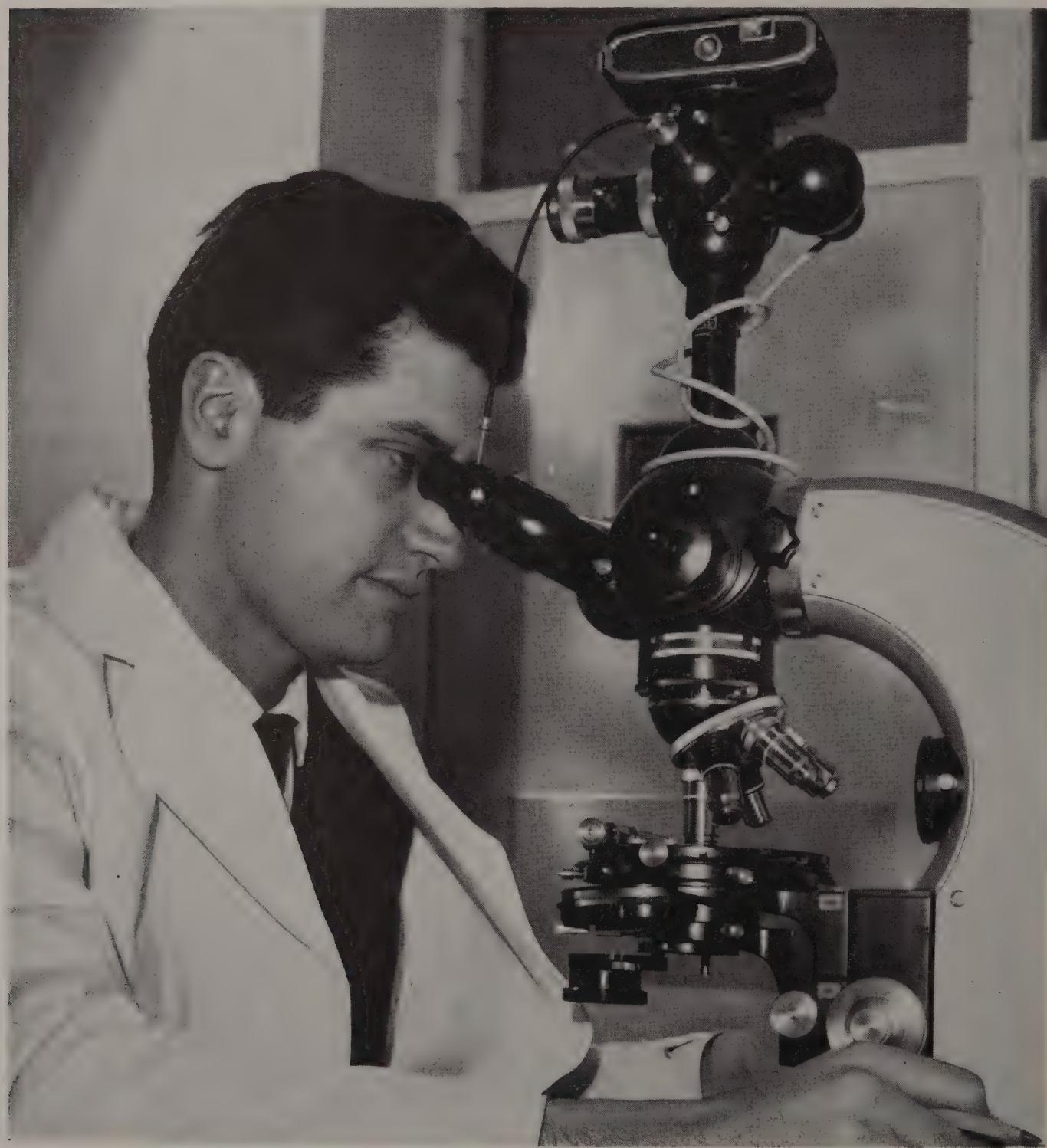
**I**N the top half of the diagram above some of the important controlling centres of the brain are shown and the lower portion indicates the different centres which are thought to be damaged in the three main forms of cerebral palsy—spasticity,

athetosis, and ataxia. The spastic child has muscle weakness and often disturbance of growth and development. This may affect one limb (monoplegia), one side of the body (hemiplegia), predominantly the legs (paraplegia), or all four limbs

(tetraplegia). The main feature of the athetoid child is the frequent involuntary movements which mask and interfere with normal movements of the whole body. The child with ataxia has an unsteady gait and difficulty in balancing; other movements may also be disturbed. Classification into these different groups is perplexing and even the expert often

finds himself in difficulty. Classification is important, however, for two reasons:

1. When we come to give estimates of how effective different forms of treatment are, we must be able to compare children whose condition is as nearly identical as possible.



*DR. F. GIANELLI working at the Microscope in the Observation Room on the Second Floor of Cameron House*



RESEARCH LIBRARY and small meeting room on the top floor of Cameron House. Books, reprints and other relevant journals are available to the research workers

2. When we are studying possible causative factors, it may turn out that different factors cause different types of cerebral palsy.

All these different types of cerebral palsy are caused by brain damage. What causes such damage and could we prevent it? Can we do anything about the damage when it has occurred? These are the basic questions that anyone interested in spastics asks himself.

The National Spastics Society made an early attack on these basic problems when it set up a research unit at Guy's Hospital in 1955 under the guidance of its medical advisory committee. In 1960 it was decided to enlarge and broaden this research unit into a general paediatric (or child health) research unit and to establish the first professorial unit in the world in Paediatric research. The position created was the Prince Philip Chair of Paediatric Research and Professor Polani was appointed and asked to build up a full unit. The Society for its part has undertaken to provide over £2 million in the next ten years for intensive research into the causes of cerebral palsy.

How does a big modern research unit work? The professor is the head of the unit and with him he will have a number of lecturers responsible for branches of research. It is the pro-

fessor's responsibility to recognise which lines of approach are going to be most profitable out of a whole mass of research projects which may be suggested to him by a study of the literature, by reports of meetings and conferences and by informal discussions with his colleagues. Then he must collect a team that will work well together and tackle the problems which arise realistically.

The unit at Guy's followed up one such promising indication very rapidly and is one of the leading units in the world in the field of cytogenetics. Cytogeneticists look for abnormalities in the chromosomes—those essential structures which are passed on to us by our parents. It is on the quality of the chromosomes that the proper functioning of the cells of our bodies depends and it is upon their functioning that we depend for our normal activities. Although it is not very common, chromosome derangements can cause a type of spasticity and this is interesting because it can throw light on the intimate and intricate functioning of the brain. As has been said, inherited defects do not play a big part in cerebral palsy although they do occur. It seems therefore that the spastic's brain is all right to start with, but gets damaged at some point during pregnancy or early life.

What factors could cause the damage? We can try and

find this out by studying the exact circumstances of the pregnancy, birth and early development of spastics and try and see what is different from other children in their early life. In fact to get this sort of information we have therefore to study large numbers of children—most of whom are not spastics—in order to spot the differences between the two groups. This sort of survey can be very difficult to carry out as one does not know exactly what differences one is looking for.

From this type of survey we begin to get ideas about when the damage occurs. There are various conditions in the mother during the pregnancy itself which may damage the baby and, not surprisingly, there is plenty of evidence that damage may occur at or around birth. At this time it is well known that oxygen may be in short supply so it is worth studying what happens to brain tissues when they are deprived of oxygen: but first of course one must know how normal brain tissue works and we have still a lot to learn about that. These basic studies, however, will help us to go further and see how the brain might be damaged *after* birth.

What sort of studies are actually being done to help the child who has cerebral palsy now? Here there are two approaches. The first is to study specific aspects of the disability and analyse it further so as to work out better ways of helping the disabled person; the second is to look critically at the sort of help we are already providing and see if it is really doing what we intend it to do.

The pictures on these pages give some impression of what the inside of the research unit is like when work is actually being carried out. At the top of the building is the library and small conference room. (See picture on page 33.) The importance of an efficient library service for a modern re-

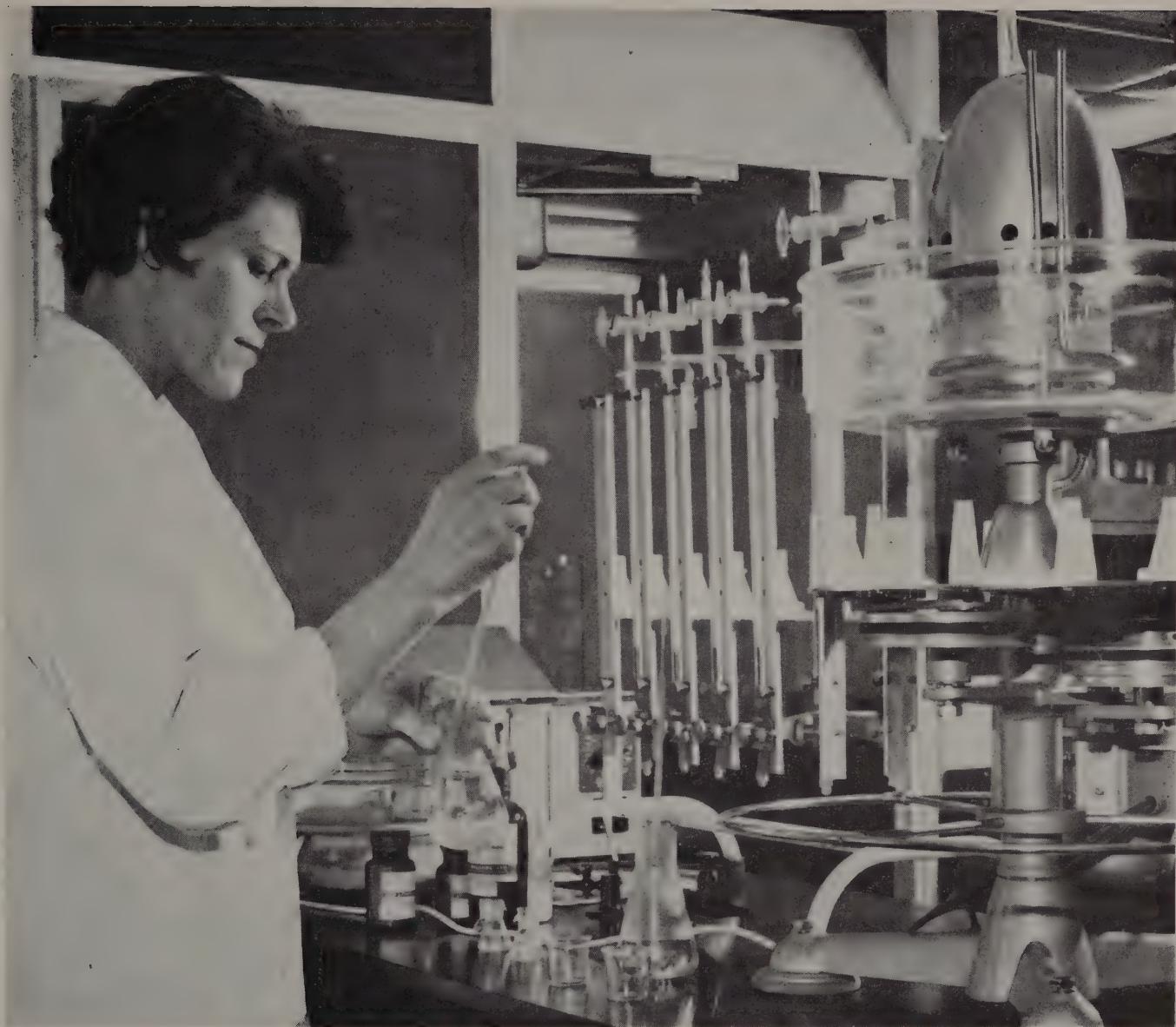
search unit cannot be over-emphasised. Over 5,000 medical journals alone are published today and there are many other scientific journals which may be relevant to specific investigations. Much of the research worker's time must therefore be spent in reading. The librarian scans lists of articles and draws the attention of different people in laboratories to particular articles which may be relevant for them. It will then be the librarian's task to obtain a copy of the article for him. This may be quite difficult if it is carried in a foreign journal.

Each floor of the unit has its different field. On the third floor is biochemistry, where chemical processes of the body are studied. (See picture on page 35.) On the second floor is immunology and also the dark-room and photographic department. This is another portion of a research unit which has become increasingly important. Nowadays it is not enough to describe one's findings; photographic records are kept of microscopic and other work, so that findings on any particular piece of tissue may be reassessed from time to time and discussed with other workers in the field. Costly modern microscopes have built-in cameras which allow the observer to scan a slide and take a photo of anything which he wants to keep on permanent record. (See picture on page 32.)

On the first floor are cytogenetical laboratories; the importance of cytogenetics is mentioned above. The picture on page 34 shows the aseptic room where tissue cultures are set up under completely sterile conditions so that there is no chance of infections developing in the tissues and disturbing the results. On the ground floor are the experimental pathology and clinical rooms, where patients come in for examination. Also in the building are administrative offices and



THE ASEPTIC ROOM in the Tissue Culture Laboratory where maintenance of tissue cultures is being undertaken on the First Floor of Cameron House. (MR. DEWSE, MR. MUTTON AND MISS MCGUIRE)



MISS MEISJE DE JONG using the MICRO SPIROMETER in research on tissue enzymes (Biochemistry:  
Third Floor Cameron House)

secretarial accommodation, again an important aspect of the unit which is apt to be forgotten. The organisation of technicians, coping with temperamental differences and seeing the scientist is never held up for lack of help and equipment, are the routines which lead to the success or failure of the research team.

It would be wrong not to mention also two other ways in which the Society has helped with research. It has given money to various experts working all over the country in different hospitals and university laboratories to help them with research projects related to the problem of cerebral palsy. There is so much to be done that the society cannot hope to support more than a part of the work of this kind which is needed, and the Research Unit at the same time. The aim therefore has always been to help new work get started and then hope that the local interests or other bigger national

bodies will be encouraged to take over the financial responsibility. In this way the Society has managed to stimulate a great deal of research work all over the country which is proving of the greatest value and is putting Britain in the lead in this important field of medicine.

The Society's other major activity has been to ensure that all the fresh information which is now coming to light gets to the doctors who ought to know about it. It has done this by financing a medical journal (*Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*), by promoting international conferences where experts from many different countries have got together to discuss their work and generally by supporting the Medical Educational and Information Unit in London.

In its first ten years the Society has made spastics one of the live subjects in medical research today. What will we learn from this activity in the next decade?

# TEN YEARS OF SERVICES TO SPASTICS

BEFORE World War II spastics tended to be treated as incurable cripples or insane or both and crowded with other unfortunates in huge institutions away from the public eye. Many others were kept hidden at home. Often the condition was not understood and treatment paid no regard to their potential as useful members of society if properly helped.

In 1952 when the N.S.S. was formed, the staffs, premises, funds and knowledge to provide comprehensive treatment, education and vocational training for spastics, either through the state or voluntary organisations, were still quite inadequate. What little could be done generally fell far below the minimum standard acceptable in the present day. Public authorities and voluntary services were making a start on tackling the problem but facilities for more severely handicapped spastics in particular were quite undeveloped. Where the provision of education or other facilities was on a higher level, the demand for places greatly exceeded the supply.

The National Spastics Society was built up by the coming together of local groups of parents of spastics and voluntary workers in various parts of the country, and the initial emphasis was on establishment of small centres to cater for local needs. The first such project to be sponsored by the N.S.S. was the Stockport centre which opened in 1953.

With the steady rise in the number of local groups since the N.S.S. began, the number of such local centres has also grown and the service they can provide to parents, children and older spastics is beginning to measure up to the national need. But more, far more, still remains to be done.

By 1958 the number of local centres operated by groups affiliated to the N.S.S. had grown to 30 and the total is now over 70, several of which already have new extensions in hand.

Another 13 groups are planning entirely new local projects and more will certainly be done by local friends of spastics as soon as premises, staff and funds are available.



*Taking command of rebellious limbs*

## To Cover the Field

The central body of the N.S.S. evolved slowly at first and was concerned mainly with fund-raising, but in January, 1955, the Society's first national Adult Residential Centre was opened at Prested Hall in Essex, which was financed mainly from the proceeds of the Coronation Seals Appeal of 1953. It was quickly followed by the Society's first national Residential School at Dene Park (the Delarue School), which was opened in May, 1955. Craig-y-Parc was opened in September of the same year by the Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan and the school at Tixover Grange in October by Mr. Wilfred Pickles, O.B.E., from whom the school derived its name. The first social workers joined the Society in 1955, and in the same year a new London office was set up in Fitzroy Square. Thus 1955 was a momentous year in the history of the Society: in less than three years it had established a headquarters in the centre of London, had founded four national Schools and Centres and a substantial number of its affiliated societies had already opened local units.

It became apparent quite early on that finding employment for young spastics required a special knowledge of certain sections of the labour market, and in 1957 a separate Employment Department was established. Since then over 2,000 spastics of all ages have been referred to the Department for advice on training and employment, and of these more than 200 have been accepted for training, and a similar number placed in local work centres: 520 have been found positions in open employment and there are now 120 regular home-workers.



*Gaining control of posture and balance*

# Child Care . . . Job Assessment . . . Handcrafts . . .



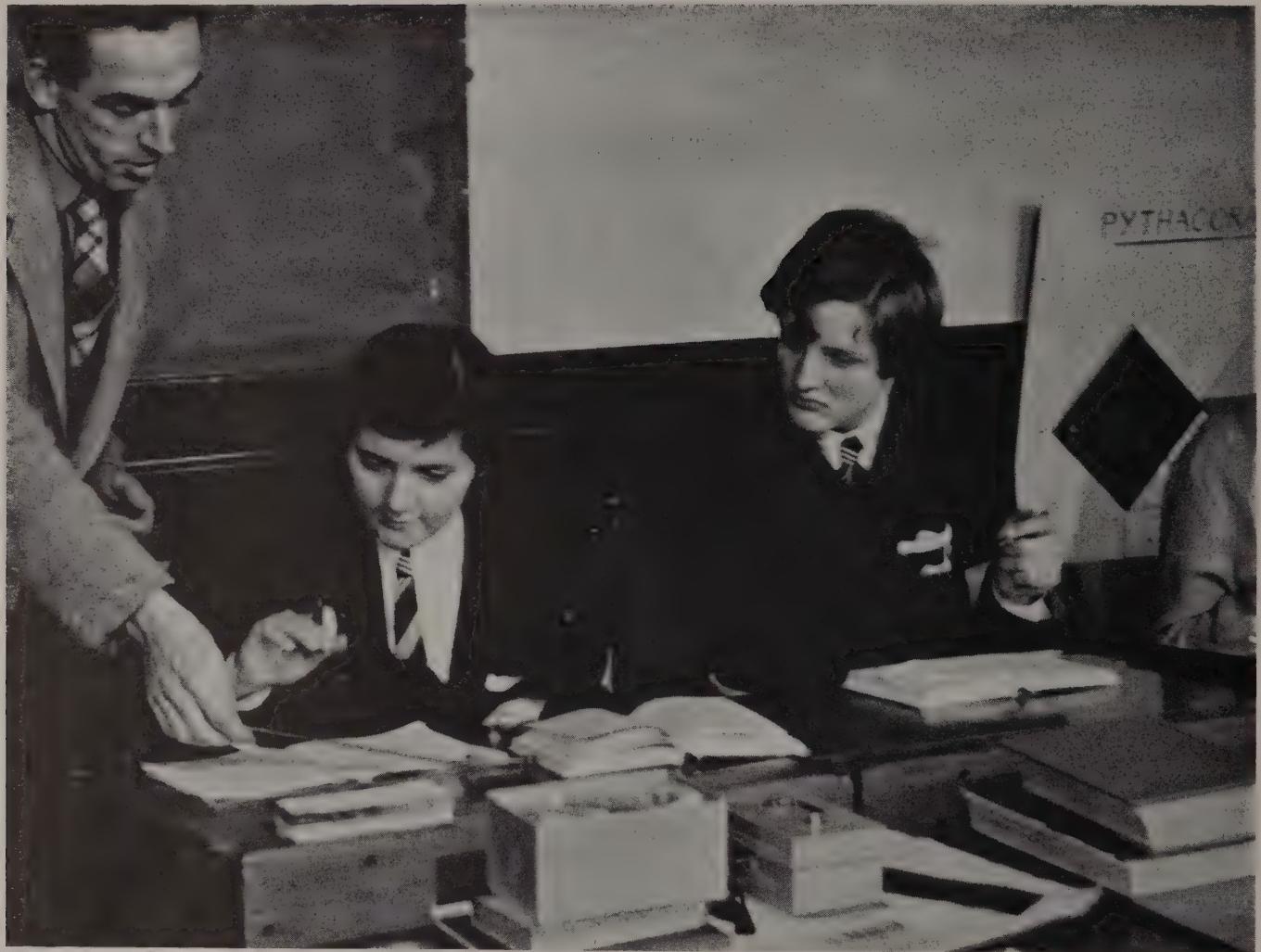
*These children need loving care and attention to develop their full capacities*

*BELOW (LEFT):  
Job assessment in progress. A dexterity trial.*

*BELOW (RIGHT):  
Learning to work as a group*



## Education . . .



### Latent Abilities

It became increasingly evident that assessment of young spastics by simple interviewing techniques was inadequate. Many of the young people coming forward had latent abilities which could not be spotted quickly and to obtain a clearer idea of their potentialities, a longer period of assessment was necessary. To meet this need, short vocational assessment courses were organised, on which groups of approximately 25 young spastics lived side by side with members of the Employment Department staff. By the end of the period the spastic has not only been fully assessed (by means of many varied and ingenious tests which range from jig-saw puzzles to working a Tickopres machine) but has ceased to be a mere name on a list and become a *person*, known to the Employment Department's social workers.

Two Further Education Courses have been organised for school-leavers who lack the necessary maturity to enter employment or training immediately after leaving school, and from the pioneer work done on these, the know-how has been acquired upon which the curricula and work of the new Further Education Centre to be opened in 1963 can be based. Perhaps the most rewarding of the Employment Department's many activities is the use of its special funds to help spastics become or remain self-employed.



# Courses for School Leavers . . .



In 1957 the Coombe Farm Adult Residential Centre, formerly the home of Miss Jean Garwood, Chairman of the Projects Committee, and the Hawksworth Hall Assessment Centre for children were opened. The Society's first Training Centre was opened on a site near Welwyn Garden City in October, 1958; this was a vital step forward. The work of the Employment Department had shown quite clearly that there were many potentially employable spastics whose talents would remain unused unless special training facilities were provided. At Sherrards intensive courses were arranged not only in specific light industrial techniques, but in the problems of living in an industrial society.

At that time the National Society was finding its holiday accommodation for spastics at the Arundel Hotel in Westcliff insufficient to meet the demand, but in June, 1959, Colwall Court at Bexhill, which had been bought by the Stars Organisation for Spastics, opened and took its first visitors.

The many other developments and achievements which are not mentioned here are now part of the success story of the N.S.S. and they are omitted not because they are insignificant, but rather because they are a development of the patterns established in the early years.

## Affiliated Bodies

The N.S.S. now has five boarding schools, a diagnostic and assessment unit (Hawksworth), four homes for adult spastics, a vocational training centre (Sherrards) and two holiday hotels. Affiliated bodies that it supports include units as large as its own national projects—the Dame Hannah Rogers School at Ivybridge, a boarding school for 50 children, and the Percy Hedley School in Newcastle with 72 pupils, 40 of them boarders.

The increase in income from £11,000 in the first year to more than twenty times as much in 1961-62 now permits planning on a large scale and expansion in the future ought certainly not to be less impressive than in the past. But what must never be forgotten is the impact of the Society on the nation generally. During the first ten years it has not merely provided places, treatment and work for spastics; it has given the spastic a place in society, and it has by its example shown governments and local authorities what with courage and training can be achieved by handicapped men, women and children, from which a humane but materialist society had in its haste averted its eyes.

# HOMEWORK SCHEMES

STARTING in 1957 with a Christmas Card Printing Scheme for employing in their own homes spastics who were so heavily handicapped that they could not attend work centres, the scheme proved so successful that today over 60 (including Dudley Virgo pictured below) are employed in their own homes and centres. This year the target for spastic-printed Christmas Cards is 350,000.

Further research showed that people with the use of only one hand could also produce delightful costume jewellery by means of special attachments. One of them, Myrna Johnson

(seen opposite) cannot use her hands at all. Now over 70 are continuously employed producing jewellery of a high standard. Other work, too, is accepted by the Homework Section and includes leatherwork, baskets, rugs, and other craft work. The newly-formed Homework Section is also taking part in national exhibitions.

All the goods produced under the sponsorship of the Society's homework schemes find a ready sale, because the accent is on quality.



*A spastic homeworker printing Christmas cards*



*A picture we are proud to print—Myrna Johnson, a homeworker who makes attractive jewellery without the use of either hand. She has also perfected her own method of knitting*

## PLACING SPASTICS IN JOBS

THE Society's Employment Department, formed in 1957, continues to expand its service to those requiring its help. An increasing number of extended Assessment Courses have been arranged and these are now held at the rate of five a year. From these courses it is possible to select those for whom further training is necessary and those who can go into jobs right away. Much is now possible even for those who cannot work, by taking part in the Society's Homework Schemes. Continuous liaison is undertaken with industry and with the Ministry of Labour in order that all who can be employed are found jobs as speedily as possible.

Disabled in both legs and both hands and with added speech difficulties, Nicky Buck has been employed for the last three years at Ascot Gas Water Heaters Ltd., and is seen here assembling part of a heater.

The Society aims to train as many spastics like Nicky as possible to overcome their handicap and qualify for employment in open industry—a service today rewarded by the fact that there are now over 500 spastic men and women in regular jobs—500 people previously believed to be unemployable.



*A complicated assembly of a water heater component*

# LOCAL GROUPS

## THEN-NOW-AND IN THE FUTURE

IT was in the years which followed immediately after the 1939-45 War that the social conscience of the country was awakened to the problems of the cerebral palsied and their parents. The efforts of a few dedicated workers and doctors on both sides of the Atlantic showed that something could be done to alleviate the condition of many cerebral palsied people for which, hitherto, no remedy had been devised or was thought devisable. There was started a chain reaction which is still gathering momentum and force: the airing of the newly-acquired knowledge, coupled with the promise of further discoveries, awoke parents, doctors and the public at large to the realisation that, since something could be done for cerebral palsied persons, it must be done without delay.

Parents up and down England and Wales came together to discuss the needs of their cerebral-palsied children, to enquire how these needs could be met, and to see that they were met. By the beginning of 1952, there were over a dozen parents' groups in existence, and members of these groups had begun to appreciate the need for co-ordination in their efforts to interest the authorities and the public at large in the cause which lay so close to their hearts: it was felt that the impact of the representations of a united national body on Government Departments, Local and Health Authorities and on individual persons, would be stronger and more effective than those of small, local, and perhaps not very vocal, groups.

Money, too, was needed and fund-raising on a national scale seemed the sensible solution to this problem.

### Early Groups

So it came about that, on January 5, 1952, representatives of 13 parents' groups met together, and decided that the National Spastics Society should be formed. The groups which participated in this Inaugural Meeting were:—

#### *Southern England*—

Bexleyheath; Buckinghamshire; Pinner; Puckle Hill, Kent; Reading; St. Margaret's, Croydon.

#### *Northern England*—

Huddersfield; Leeds; Newcastle; Wallasey.

#### *Midlands*—

Coventry; Midland Spastic Association.

#### *Wales*—

Cardiff.

The Associations at Bristol, Ivybridge (Dame Hannah Rogers School) and Edinburgh, were unable to send representatives but sent supporting letters.

The National Spastics Society came into official being in mid-1952, and it lost no time in recruiting new groups into its ranks. By the end of the year the total was 38: in 1953, 32 more groups joined, and in 1954, another 43 affiliations were recorded.

### Consolidation

A temporary saturation point was then reached, and energies and efforts were directed at consolidating the ground already won and at building up the Society into a cohesive whole. Recruiting during the years 1954 to 1961 was maintained at an average of six new groups a year, and this progress, we hope, will be maintained until there is no part of

England and Wales which is not included within the boundaries of one of our affiliated groups.

The arithmetically-minded will find that the figures given do not tally exactly with the total number of groups affiliated to the Society today—132. There are two reasons for this discrepancy. Firstly, many of the earlier and smaller groups have either amalgamated to form larger groups, or have been absorbed into others; a few have found the ground too hard and have lacked the means or the will to live. Secondly, a Society such as ours, born of stress and tension, must inevitably carry on it some marks of its hard travail.

These stresses and tensions have produced at times disagreement over policy and priorities which have resulted in some groups resigning their membership, but, happily, the number of these is small and the common denominator in all divergencies has been the question: "How can we best meet the needs of spastic persons?"

### About Groups

Groups vary in size and wealth; their activities, too, are diverse. The recorded number of members range from 300 at one end of the scale to 19 at the other; incomes in 1961/62 varied from £100 to £17,000.

Over 70 groups already provide services of one kind or another for the spastic persons in their areas, and a further 20 groups are busy on their plans. The more common services are:—

- (a) the provision of nursery, occupational or work centres;
- (b) The provision of physio- and speech-therapy;
- (c) the running of schools, both for the physically handicapped and the educationally sub-normal child,  
and
- (d) the running of holiday homes.

Some groups do not run centres or schools, but concern themselves with the welfare of the spastic people whom they have found in their areas: they see that they are properly looked after and are given the chance of an occasional holiday or outing. Other groups have concentrated on raising capital funds for the building of centres and units to be administered by local or hospital authorities. The younger groups are engaged on establishing themselves and on discovering the main needs of their spastic population before they commit themselves to any definite programme of work. It is a pleasant thought to be able to record that local educational and hospital authorities are showing an increasing interest in the work undertaken by groups, and that each year sees more of them prepared, not only to encourage, but also to support their enterprises. The overall picture is now one of happy liaison between voluntary and official organisations.

### Regional Organisation

One need, that of joint action on a national scale, was recognised and met in 1952. Another need, that of local liaison and communication between groups became manifest about 1954-55, and to meet it, the Regions with their Councils composed of representatives from groups and with full-time Regional Officers, were begun.

The first was formed in 1956 in the north, with its headquarters at Leeds, and the second followed later in the same

year in the South-East of England: its headquarters were established at Tunbridge Wells. In 1959 the Eastern Region came into being with its headquarters at Peterborough, and in 1960, the Northern Home Counties Region was established with its headquarters at Watford. In 1960, too, Regional Officers were appointed to the Welsh and Western Regions, though no Regional Council was, or has yet, been set up in either Region. In 1961 the very large Northern Region was divided into the North-Western and North-Eastern Regions, each with its Council and Regional Officer. The Midland Region has as yet, neither Regional Council nor Regional Officer.

#### Common Purpose

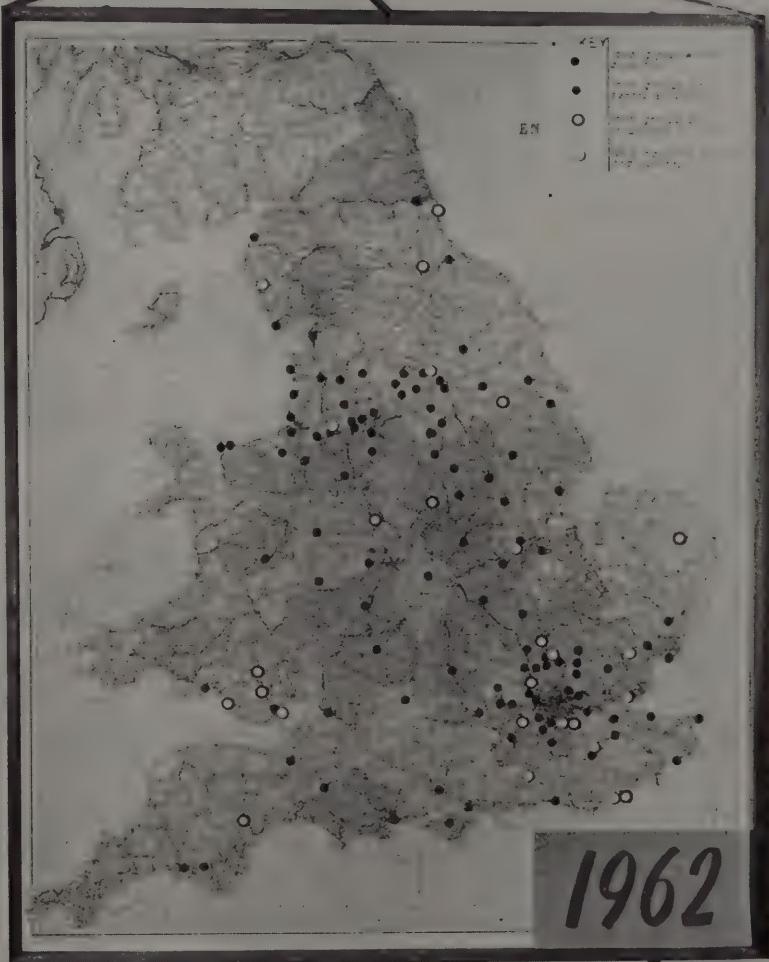
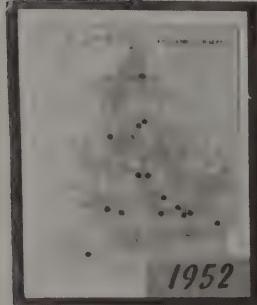
The National Spastics Society is the sum of its affiliated groups; it is the union of all groups in one common purpose—

the welfare of spastic people—and it exists to support groups in their endeavours, to provide those central services and to promote those important activities such as medical and educational research, which groups cannot aspire to individually.

We look in the future to the creation of an adequate number of groups to serve all spastic people throughout the length and breadth of England and Wales, to raise funds where required for this purpose, and to "fly the flag" for the Society so that the public sees the spastic person in a true perspective.

We look also to the strengthening of existing groups so that they are better able to meet the tasks which face them, to closer liaison between groups over the planning and building of Centres, and to the promotion of social activities which will encourage the spastics to come out of their shells and bring them to realise that not only have they a rightful place in society, but that society is anxious that they should fill it.

## GROUPS THEN AND NOW



*These two maps, part of the anniversary exhibition, show the Group position in 1952 (smaller map) and today in England and Wales. The various pins indicate local groups without a centre: local groups providing centre services: local groups planning to provide a centre: and N.S.S. national schools and centres*

# AFFILIATED GROUPS AND LOCAL CENTRES OF THE N.S.S.

## Eastern Region

Boston District Branch  
 Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TC**  
 Corby and District Spastics Society  
 Derby and District Branch of NSS **T**  
 Grantham & District Friends of Spastics  
 Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends of Spastics Society **T**  
 Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Soc. **T**  
 Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society **TE**  
 Lincoln Branch  
 Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group **O**  
 Newark and District Friends of Spastics Group  
 Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Assoc. **T**  
 Northampton and County Spastics Society **TE**  
 Nottingham and Friends of Spastics Group **TEC**  
 Peterborough and District Spastics Group **O**  
 Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society **C**  
 Stamford and District Branch of NSS  
*(Regional Officer: H. G. Knight, 58 Park Road, Peterborough, Northants. Tel: 67045)*

## Midland Region

Cannock Chase Spastic Association  
 Coventry and District Spastics Society **R**  
 Dudley and District Spastic Group **O**  
 North Staffordshire Spastic Association **T**  
 Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group  
 Stafford and District Spastic Association  
 Worcester and District Branch of NSS  
*(Officer to be appointed)*

## North-Eastern Region

Barnsley and District Association of the NSS **C**  
 Bradford and District Branch of the NSS  
 Castleford and District Spastics Committee  
 Darlington and District Spastics Society  
 Dewsbury and District Spastics Society  
 Goole and District Spastics Association  
 Halifax and District Spastic Group **W**  
 Huddersfield and District Spastics Soc.  
 Hull Group, The Friends of Spastics Society in Hull and District **H**  
 Leeds and District Spastics Society  
 Pontefract and District Spastics Association  
 Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society  
 Sheffield and District Spastics Society **T**  
 Sunderland and District Spastics Society  
 Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics **TE**  
 York and District Spastic Group **T**  
*(Reg. Off. R. J. F. Whyte, NSS, Trevelyan Chambers, 7 Boar Lane, Leeds 1. Tel: 33933)*

## North Western Region

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society **C**  
 Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society **TE**  
 Blackburn and District Spastics Group  
 Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group **CW**  
 Bollington, Macclesfield and District Committee for Spastic Children  
 Bolton and District Group of the NSS **TE**  
 Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group  
 Chester and District Spastics Assoc. **TE**  
 Crewe and District Spastics Society **TO**  
 Crosby and District Spastics Society

Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society **H**  
 Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society  
 Manchester and District Spastics Soc. **TE**  
 Oldham & District Spastics Society **T**  
 Preston and District Spastic Group **T**  
 Sale, Altringham and District Spastics Society **RTEC**  
 Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society  
 Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society **TEO**  
 Urmston and District Group of the NSS **TC**  
 Warrington Group for the Welfare of Spastics  
 Widnes Spastics Fellowship Group  
*(Reg Off: T. H. Keighley, 20 Brazen-nose Street, Manchester. Tel: Blackfriars 6130)*

## Northern Home Counties Region

Bedford and District **TOWE**  
 Bishop's Stortford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society **W**  
 Clacton and District Group  
 Colchester and District Group  
 East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 East London Spastic Society **H**  
 Epping Forest and District Branch of NSS **TO**  
 Essex Group of the NSS  
 Harlow and District Branch  
 Hatfield and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics  
 Herts Spastics Society  
 Ilford, Romford and District Spastics Association **O**  
 Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics Group **T**  
 Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group  
 North London Area Association of Parents and Friends of Spastics **T**  
 North-West London Group of the NSS  
 Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society of the NSS **TE**  
 Reading and District Spastics Welfare Society **TE**  
 Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society  
 Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society **TEO**  
 South-West Middlesex Group of the NSS **T**  
 St. Albans and District Group, Herts Spastics Society **T**  
 Walthamstow and District Spastics Society  
 Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Welwyn Garden City and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Wycombe and District Spastics Society **T**  
*(Reg. Off: R. C. Lemarie, 32 High St., Watford. Tel: 41565)*

## Key:

- T**—Treatment Available
- E**—Education
- O**—Occupation Centre
- W**—Work Centre
- H**—Holiday Home
- C**—Child Care
- R**—Residential Centre

## South-Eastern Region

Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society **TE**  
 Brighton, Hove and District Branch **TOC**  
 Central Surrey Group **W**  
 Croydon and District Branch **TEW**  
 East Sussex Group (Hastings and District) **T**  
 Folkestone and District Branch of NSS  
 Isle of Wight Group **TE**  
 Maidstone Area Spastic Group **OT**  
 Medway Towns Branch of NSS  
 North Hants and West Surrey Group **TE**  
 North Surrey Group **W**  
 North-West Kent Spastics Group **W**  
 North-West Surrey Group **TE**  
 Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **TEW**  
 Southampton and District Spastics Association **TOW**  
 South-East London Group **T**  
 South-East Surrey Spastics Group (Redhill) **TO**  
 South London Group  
 South-West London and District Group  
 South-West Surrey Group **TE**  
 Thanet Group  
 Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area Group  
 West Kent Spastics Society—Incorporating Bromley and District Spastics Group  
*(Reg. Off: H. J. I. Cunningham, 55 London Road, Horsham, Sussex. Tel: 60100)*  
*(Hampshire T. & V. Organiser: Capt. C. S. B. Swinley, 32 St. Cross Road, Winchester. Tel: 61221)*

## Welsh Region (including Mon.)

Cardiff and District Spastics Assoc. **TC**  
 Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society  
 Conway and District Branch of NSS  
 Flint Borough Spastics Association  
 Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Soc. **C**  
 Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society  
 Montgomeryshire Spastics Society  
 Pontypridd and District Group  
 Swansea and District Spastics Association **TCW**  
*(Reg. Off: B. Kingsley-Davies, 64 St. Mary Street, Cardiff. Tel: 29289)*

## Western Region

Bridgewater and District Friends of Spastics Association **TE**  
 Bristol Spastics Association **CTOW**  
 Cheltenham Spastic Aid Association **ET**  
 Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society  
 Plymouth Spastic (CP) Assoc. **COETW**  
 Swindon and District Spastic Society  
 Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society  
*(Reg. Off: Mrs. A. Mansel-Dyer, St. John House, Park Street, Taunton, Somerset. Tel: 81678)*

Jersey Branch of the NSS, Channel Islands

**Independent Schools (affiliated to the N.S.S.)**  
 Dame Hannah Rogers School, Ivybridge, Devon  
 Percy Hedley School, Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne

**Chief Regional Officer:**  
 (A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 12 Park Cresc., London, W.1.)

**Local Projects Secretary:**  
 (D. Lancaster-Gaye, 12 Park Cresc., London, W.1.)

# COVENANT FORM

## NOTES

Please insert in BLOCK CAPITALS Christian and Surnames, including rank, title or style; and FULL ADDRESS including county.

I .....  
(FULL CHRISTIAN NAMES)  
.....  
(SURNAME)  
of .....  
(FULL ADDRESS)

## HEREBY COVENANT WITH THE NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY 12 PARK CRESCENT, LONDON, W.1

that for a period of seven years from the date hereof or during my life, whichever period shall be the shorter, I will pay annually to the said Society for its general purposes on the (1).....day of.....196..., such sum as will after deduction of Income Tax at the standard rate in force at the time when payment is due yield the net sum of £.....(net amount in figures)

(2).....(net amount in words).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have executed this deed this (3).....day of.....196...

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED  
BY THE SAID

(4).....

in the presence of

(5).....)

(6).....)

(Normal Signature of Donor)

*After signing this form in the presence of the witness, please send it to Appeals Department, National Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1, together with the Banker's Order form (if used) which will be forwarded to your Bank.*

## BANKER'S ORDER FORM

To Messrs. .... Bankers

at .....  
(ADDRESS OF BRANCH)

Pay to THE WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED, 2 Hampstead Road, London, N.W.1,  
for the account of the NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY, 12 Park Crescent, London,  
W.1, the sum of £.....:  
(AMOUNT IN FIGURES)

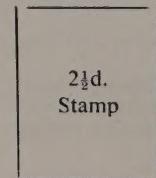
(.....)  
(AMOUNT IN WORDS)

on the.....day of....., and on the  
.....day of..... each year until  
further notice.

Note: In case of covenanted subscriptions, the date of first payment should be AFTER the  
date of the Deed of Covenant.

Signature.....

Address .....



Date.....

# IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP . . .

We hope that readers of this special issue of "SPASTICS NEWS" will feel that the work the National Spastics Society has done and hopes to do in the future is really worth while. But much more needs to be done and *will* be done when the funds are available.

Our work is dependent upon voluntary contributions and only a small fraction of our total expenditure can be covered by the grants we are entitled to claim from local authorities and public funds. Without the continued generous support of private donors, our work could not be carried on.

For those who would like to help, the following notes may be useful.

## 1. Donations

The Society is always extremely glad to receive donations of any value and the amount we receive through donations by postal orders, cheques, etc. has a direct effect on the work we are able to do for spastics. If you would like to help in this way, please send your gift to the Appeals Department, The National Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

## 2. Regular Annual Donations (Covenants) and Income Tax

We would like to draw the attention of donors of the Deed of Covenant Scheme for regular subscribers to charity. *This form of gift is the most fruitful for the Society*, because we are able to *reclaim the tax paid by the donor* and the assurance of a regular annual subscription helps us to plan ahead. Under the Covenant Scheme, the donor agrees to pay out of taxable income a stated sum for not less than seven successive years. By so doing, the donor makes it possible for the National Spastics Society to recover the appropriate amount of income tax *and add it to the gift*. Provided he has sufficient income taxable at the full rate to cover the payment, there is no extra cost to the donor.

This is how it works:

(Assuming Tax at 7/9 in the £)

You Pay	We Recover from Inland Revenue	Total Subscription
1 guinea per annum	13. 4	£1. 14. 4
5 guineas per annum	£3. 6. 5	£8. 11. 5
10 guineas per annum	£6. 12. 9	£17. 2. 9

All who support the work of the National Spastics Society can give us the most valuable help by filling up the Covenant form on the opposite page and sending it to us, together with the Banker's Order which we will forward to the appropriate Bank.

*Note: This form of gift is very widely used. In the event of death, the Covenant automatically ceases. Where donors of the National Spastics Society under Covenants have met with unexpected financial misfortune, in no case has the National Spastics Society brought proceedings to enforce payment.*

*The Society will pay the necessary stamp duty on Deeds of Covenant and will furnish the subscriber each year with a Certificate of Deduction of Income Tax.*

*Payment under this scheme can be made by any normal method, e.g. by cheque or Banker's Order, but it would be greatly appreciated if, in order to save subsequent reminder notices etc., the Banker's Order form opposite could be sent in with the Deed.*

*A special form of Covenant, for use by private or public companies, is obtainable from the National Spastics Society.*

## 3. Legacies

Very many generous people have decided to leave money to the National Spastics Society in their Wills, either for the general purposes of the Society or for the benefit of a particular friend or relative who is a spastic. A leaflet giving detailed advice and including legally approved bequest and codicil forms will be sent on request.

Please write to the Appeals Department of the National Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1., if you require advice or legal help over any special problem connected with a donation, covenant, legacy, or any other form of contribution.

